

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-19 and 22 remain in the application. Claims 3, 5, 20 and 21 have been cancelled.

In the Office Action dated November 20, 2007, the Examiner objected to claim 11 for lacking antecedent basis for the term “the collar-like guide element” and has correctly pointed out that the claim should be dependent upon claim 10 instead of upon claim 1. Appropriate correction has been made.

Claims 5-9 and 12-19 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended all the remaining claims to remove the reference numbers from the body of the claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include what are believed to be all the limitations of claim 5 and its base and intervening claims. Although claim 5 references claim 2, it is clear that the reference should be to claim 3 which introduces the spring element. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of claims 3 and 5.

The only language removed from claim 1 is what is believed to be the extraneous language of the preamble particularly referencing multimedia connections in a motor vehicle. This language was intended to identify an exemplary, though not restrictive, use for the connector. This language is not believed required to distinguish from the prior art and, as the Examiner has stated, it does not serve to patentably distinguish from the prior art.

Applicant has also amended claim 1 by substituting the word “receiving” for “inserting” to clarify that the fiber receptacle is constructed for “receiving” the first ends of the first and second fiber sections which are inserted therein.

Additionally, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2 and 4 to make some references to the first and second sleeves, the first and second cylindrical guides and the first and second channels plural by adding an "s" which is believed to be more accurate for those references.

Applicant has also amended claim 9, line 4 by deleting the reference to "grooves" and inserting the reference to "holding channels". This change is consistent with Paragraph 0068 of the published application as show in Fig. 5 of the drawings.

Applicant believes that amended claim 1, and its dependent claims 2, 4, 6-11, 18, 19 and 22 and are in condition for allowance.

Claims 12 and 14 have also been amended to be put in independent form, including the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 10. Again, the exemplary language referencing the multimedia connection in a motor vehicle from the preamble has been deleted. Accordingly, these claims and their dependent claims 13 and 15-17 are believed in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conversation could facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the number provided.

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Respectfully submitted,

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